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TO THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF PENRYN.

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*Bannall*

ANNUAL REPORT

for

THE YEAR 1940

of

THE MEDICAL OFFICER

OF

HEALTH.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1940.

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To the Council of the Borough of Penryn :-

Gentlemen,

In presenting my Annual Report for 1940 I will begin by saying once again that it will be a very short one, including only important alterations or improvements in accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Health.

SOCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Unemployment has not been a problem naturally, and there has been no change of any note in the character of the industries in the area.

During the year we have had a large number of evacuated children and a fair number of adults sent to us under the Government evacuation scheme, while a good many more came into the area voluntarily. This at one time meant an increase in population of nearly 1,000, but a considerable number of these have since returned home. This has naturally put a severe strain on the housing accommodation of the town and cases of overcrowding have been unavoidable. The billeting officers have had plenty of troubles in their difficult job, but on the whole the scheme has worked smoothly thanks largely to the untiring work of the W.V.S.



Premises were ear-marked for a hostel or Sick Bay, but it was eventually decided that our hostel cases could be dealt with in hostels of neighbouring authorities and this arrangement has been working very well. The main indications for hostel treatment have been Scabies, Impetigo and Enuresis.

Scabies has been all too common and has spread to what I may call the "native population" to an extent hitherto unknown. In fact this complaint was very much of a rarity here before the days of evacuation. This fact coupled with the results of inspections of and visits to houses occupied by our visitors has led one to the conclusion that their standards of cleanliness and ours are in most cases somewhat different.

A social centre or recreation room has been provided, but for one reason and another has not been largely patronized.

#### STATISTICS.

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| Area in acres. . . . .                            | 721.            |
| Number of inhabited houses (end of 1940-. . . . . | 1,180. <i>X</i> |
| Rateable Value. . . . .                           | £17,210.        |
| Sum produced by a penny rate. . . . .             | \$65.           |

#### VITAL STATISTICS.

Population Mid 1940. . . . . 3,941. *X*

|                      | M.            | F.  | Total. |   |
|----------------------|---------------|-----|--------|---|
| <u>Live Births.</u>  | 30.           | 33. | 63.    | Birth-rate per 1,00<br>of Population 17.0 |
|                      | Legitimate.   |     |        |   |
|                      | Illegitimate. | 3.  | 1.     | 4.  |
| <u>Still Births.</u> | 1.            | 2.  | 3.     | Rate per 1,00 births-<br>42.8             |
| <u>Deaths.</u>       | 29.           | 29. | 58.    |   |





Giving a crude death-rate of 14.7 per 1,000 population. But this figure has to be corrected by multiplying by the Comparative Factor for the Area- in this case 0.95 which gives a corrected death-rate of 13.9

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

1. Puerperal sepsis. . . . . nil.
2. Other Causes. . . . . nil.

|   |                   |    |
|---|-------------------|----|
|   | Legitimate. . .   | 2. |
| <u>Deaths of Infants under one year of age :-</u> | Illegitimate. . . | 0. |

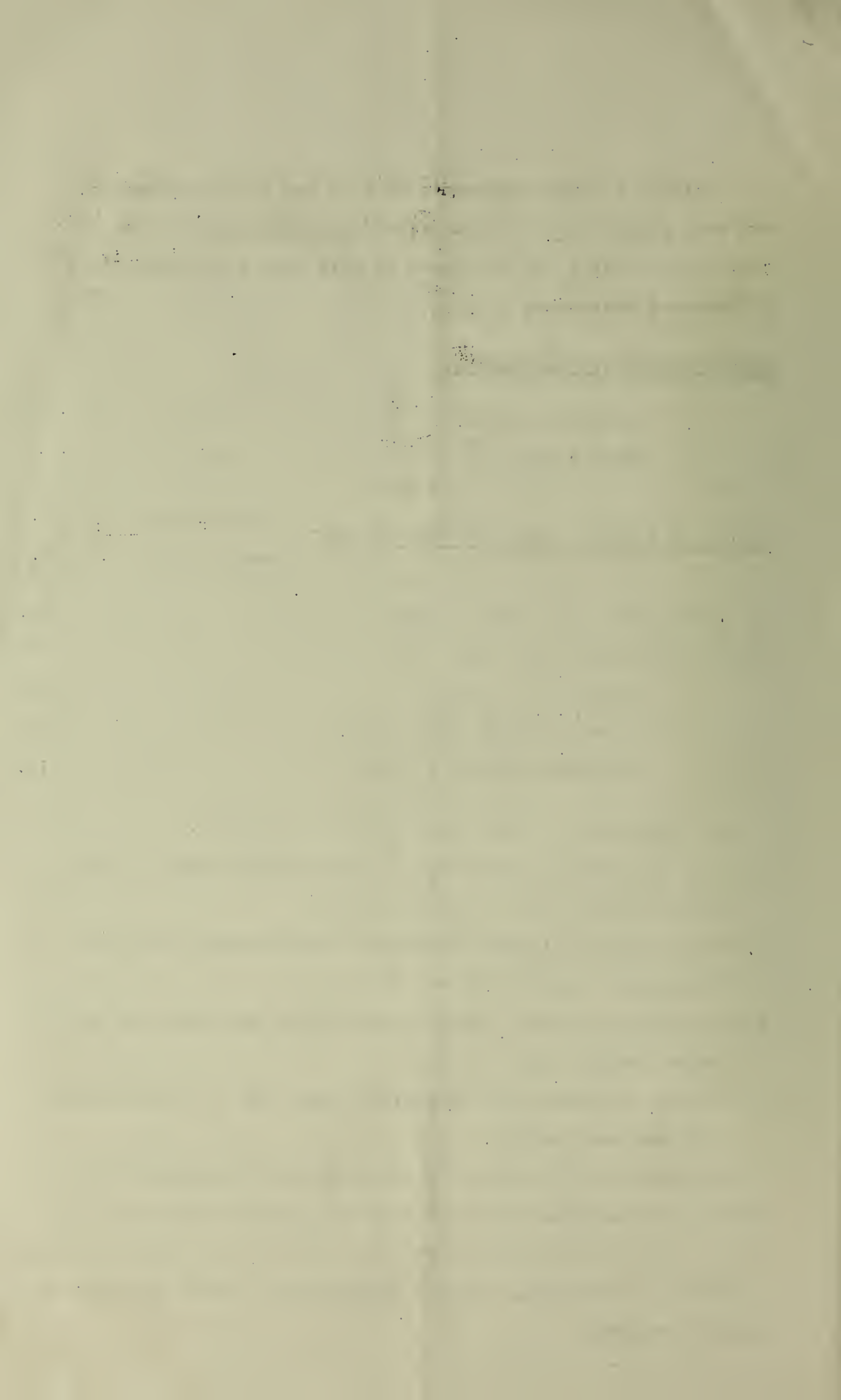
|  |      |
|--|------|
| All infants per 1,000 live births. . . . .   | 29.  |
| Deaths from Cancer (all ages). . . . .       | 7.   |
| . . . . . Measles (all ages). . . . .        | nil. |
| . . . . . Whooping Cough (all ages). . . . . | nil. |
| . . . . . Diarrhoea (under 2 years). . . . . | nil. |

A few comments on these statistics are indicated.

1. The birth-rate remains high as compared with that for the whole Country viz :- 17.0 to 14.6
2. The death-rate is also slightly lower than that for the County generally 13.9 to 14.3
3. Our infant mortality rate is also lower than that for the whole County 42.8 to 55
4. We had no deaths from puerperal causes and no notifications for puerperal sepsis.

On the whole therefore, if we may judge from statistics we can be reasonably satisfied with the position especially in view of the abnormal conditions with which we have had to contend.

There is however no room for complacency: indeed, we must be doubly prepared.





GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

M.O.H. J.N.L.Blaney.,M.B., B.Ch. D.P.H. (Part time and also District M.O under Public Assistance Authority and Public Vaccinator).

Sanitary Inspector. J.F.Harris A.R.B.I. (Half time) who also holds a certificate for Food Inspection.

There have been no alterations of any note in the health services of the area, except for additional arrangements for inspecting evacuated children and the establishment of a "Minor ailment clinic". This has been conducted by the Education Authority.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water. The supply from the Falmouth Corporation Water Works has continued to be satisfactory in every way. Frequent analyses are made and submitted to me by the manager. These have invariably been entirely satisfactory and, for reasons of economy, I do not propose to publish them this year as an appendix to this report.

Drainage and Sewerage. No new work has been done under this head.

Closet Accomodation. There are still some so-called water-closets which either have no flush-tanks or, in some cases, the water supply has been cut off owing to the failure of the owners to provide a reserve tank. The result is that these closets have to be flushed by hand with the result that all too frequently this is not done often enough or thoroughly enough. This state of affairs should not exist and owners should be made to supply proper flushing facilities.

Rivers and Streams. Nil to report.



Public Cleansing. A large number of cases of Scabies and Impetigo have occurred and all heavily infected ones, if evacuees, have been sent to special hostels. Infected clothing and bedding are being cleansed and disinfested by steam sterilization by special arrangements we have been able to make.

Shops and Offices, Camping Sites, Smoke Abatement, Swimming Baths and Pools.

Nil to report.

Eradication of Bed-bugs. Five Council houses had to be treated by the local Authority- the same methods being employed as I have described in previous reports.

#### HOUSING.

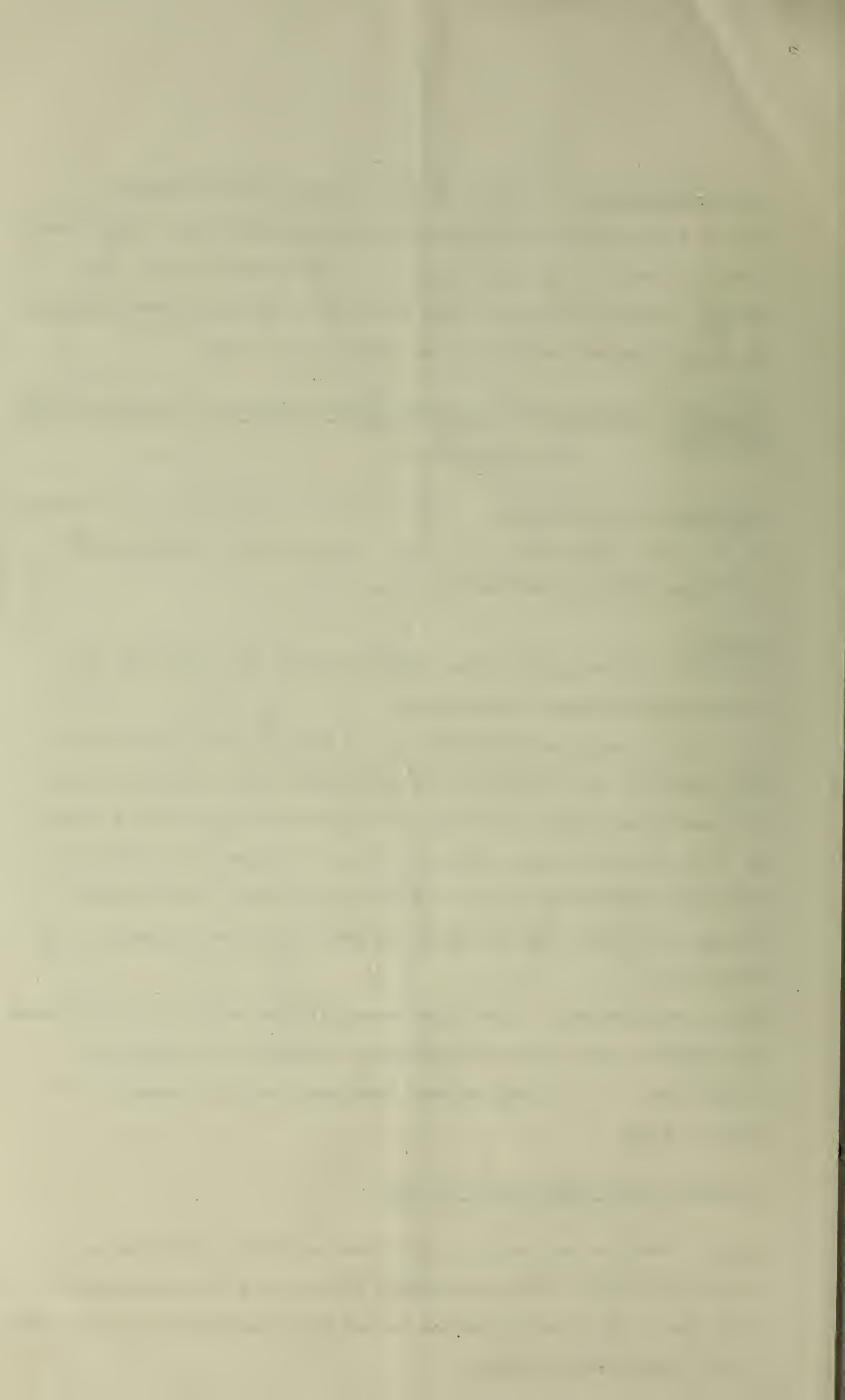
NO new houses were constructed in the past year and no demolitions were undertaken.

The housing accomodation of the Borough has been taxed to the utmost by the increased war-population and a certain number of unoccupied houses which had been allowed to get into a state of disrepair have been rendered at least temporarily habitable. Cases of overcrowding were at first inevitable, but gradually things got sorted out and there is now little to complain of on that score.

There are, however, a few black-sheep in the matter of cleanliness and frequent and regular inspections are made for insanitary conditions. I do not propose this year to give these in tabular form.

#### Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk. Cowsheds and dairies have been regularly inspected and a good standard of cowshed and dairy hygiene has been maintained, with one or two exceptions who do not yet appreciate the importance of the pre-milking toilet.





### Meat and other Foods.

Shops, stalls and vehicles are regularly inspected. Minor faults have been discovered and corrected. No cases calling for legal proceedings have arisen. There are no Slaughter-houses in the Borough and the Distributing Centre has now been removed out of the district.

### Schools.

No changes under this heading. These are inspected periodically.

I have reason to believe that the primitive sanitary block at the C. of E Schools is to be modernised shortly.

### Rats.

Infested areas are treated about 3 times a year. Large numbers have been destroyed especially at the refuse Dump.

### Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

During 1940 the following notifications were received :-

|                                |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Scarlet Fever. . . . .         | 5.  |
| Diphtheria. . . . .            | 1.  |
| Erysipelas. . . . .            | 2.  |
| Measles. . . . .               | 15. |
| Pneumonia. . . . .             | 2.  |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum. . . . . | 1.  |

The Scarlet fever cases occurred sporadically and there was nothing approaching an epidemic. Two of these were evacuees and were removed at once to Isolation hospital.

The case of Diphtheria was a mild one and was nursed at home.

Measles, which only became generally notifiable in 1940, appeared to originate with an evacuated child and proved to be the precursor of a widespread but mild epidemic. All cases were nursed at home.





No diphtheria immunization scheme was undertaken by the local authority during 1940 but a good many children were inoculated at the parents own request and the Council agreed to undertake an immunization campaign. I am glad to say that this has now been put into effect but this does not come into the period under review now.

Satisfactory arrangements are in existence for the isolation and treatment of evacuated children at special infectious diseases hospitals.

#### TUBERCULOSIS.

During the past year the following cases were notified :-

6 Pulmonary cases, 4 males and 2 females. Of these two occurred amongst people (adults) evacuated here from other districts.

There was one non-pulmonary case- a child aged 3 years with Tubercular Meningitis. This case ended fatally. There was one other death- a pulmonary male aged 32.

Notification during the period under review has been satisfactory.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. H. L. BLANEY.

